

ST. SYMPHOROSA & ST. RENE PARISH

St. Symphorosa & St. Rene Parish Office
6135 S. Austin Ave Chicago, IL 60638
(773) 767-1523

WATCH THEREFORE;
YOU DO NOT KNOW WHEN
THE LORD OF THE HOUSE IS COMING,
WHETHER IN THE EVENING, OR AT MIDNIGHT,
OR AT COCKCROW, OR IN THE MORNING.

MARK 13:35



FIRST SUNDAY OF
ADVENT
NOVEMBER 29, 2020



Fr. Bob's Weekly Blog

Welcome to the Parish of St. Symphorosa & St. Rene!!

Mother Teresa gives us a warm Advent challenge.

This recently canonized saint said, "At this Christmas, when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern."

We all run the risk of allowing our heart to grow cold by sin and indifference to God's love. Look around today and you can see the despair, the irreverence, the cynicism. We lose hope as more and more fellow human beings disappoint us by not meeting our expectations of "how things should be."

Instead of wallowing in the darkness we are encouraged to receive the Light that comes to us from the One who came into this world to die so that we might have life. Jesus is the Light of the world, and unless we welcome this light into our heart – into our very being – we cannot be a light for others.

Let's use the beginning of a new liturgical year to make a sincere re-commitment to the Lord. Perhaps we've gotten spiritually sloppy. Maybe we've turned our worship of God into thoughtless routine instead of it being reverent ritual. The beauty of it all is that we can always start anew by humbly voicing, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me a sinner."

Humility enables us to see the miraculous possibility of the infinite God dwindling into the infancy of Jesus in Bethlehem. Pride can't see – or won't see – the beauty of a Creator entering into our brokenness in the flesh of a baby king.

C. S. Lewis wrote, "A proud man is

always looking down on things and people; and of course, as long as you are looking down you cannot see something that is above you."

The something that is above us is a Someone – The Trinitarian God that is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our God is a divine relationship of love that explodes into the creation that we can sense. But there is a reality beyond time and space that we cannot scientifically measure with microscopes and telescopes. Instead, this invisible reality became visible in the manger of Bethlehem; and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Advent is a time, once again, to prepare our hearts to receive the Lord. No matter where we might be in our relationship with Jesus, we can always be open to it deepening; becoming more mature. Part of this deepening is decluttering our heart of what needs to go. What in your heart might be blocking you for a much deeper joy that the Lord intends? Take time to sit down and be silent; examine where you are today. Be honest with the Lord. Pray that all that gets in the way of holiness may give way to the One who feeds us in both word and sacrament.

Avoid the secular rush to celebrate Christmas too soon. Stay present as these weeks of Advent go by and prepare the way of the Lord. Far too many of us are always looking toward tomorrow that we miss the presence of Christ found only in TODAY.

Stay awake. Stay present. Stay tuned. For no eye has seen, nor ear heard, what God has prepared for those who love Him.

Breaking Bread Hymnals

Every parish family is encouraged to take home a 2021 Breaking Bread Hymnal and make it your own.

In light of COVID-19 guidelines and concerns, we do NOT want to have the hymnals in the pews. Instead, we want each family (or you if you come to Mass alone) to have their own personal Breaking Bread hymnal.

You will then need to bring the hymnal with you EACH WEEK. Please, for now, **ONE** hymnal per family.

The hymnals can be picked up in the narthex. We ask that you sign your name that you take one, and that you use the white label on the hymnal to put your name, etc. There might be occasions when a hymnal gets left behind, etc., so please identify as yours.

These hymnals help us to prepare for Mass. The Sunday readings can be found inside along with our many hymns.

There is no cost for the initial Breaking Bread hymnal, but we may need to charge a small fee for second and third copies.

Thank you for your patience in all of this, and we hope this decision helps us be safe, but also worship our God with participatory joy. And remember, bring the hymnal with you each week.



Quote of the Week

*"It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and this to open the doors of hope."
~Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI*

Pastoral Staff

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Associate Pastor
Rev. Ted Bojczuk
Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Peter Paurazas
Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Idzi Stacherczak
Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Norman Trela
Retired Priest

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Steve Kittler
Music Director
Deacon Raul Duque
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Peg Siebenaler
Faith Formation
Kathy Berry
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Chris Garza
Assistant Principal
Mark Schusteric
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St. Symphorosa & St. Rene Parish Office

6135 S. Austin Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60638
773-767-1523 (phone)
773-767-6135 (fax)
symphorosa@comcast.net (email)

Monday - Friday
9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Saturday
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

St. Rene Worship Site

6949 W 63rd Place
Chicago, Illinois 60638

St. Symphorosa School

6125 S. Austin Ave
Chicago, Illinois 60638
(773) 585-6888

Sacrament of Penance

6-7pm every Tuesday (St. Symphorosa Site)
3-3:45pm every Saturday (St. Rene Site)
Offered by Appointment During the Week
Please call the Parish Office



St. Symphorosa & St. Rene Annual Giving Tree

Once again St. Symphorosa & St. Rene Parish is sponsoring our annual Advent Giving Tree Project. If you would like to participate in this project, please select ornaments from our Giving Tree found in the Gathering Space of church. Shop for the gift requested on the ornament, attach the ornament to the wrapped package, and return to church at masses the weekend of **December 12th and 13th**.

Some of the ornaments have a request for a gift card. For your convenience, a member of the Transformation Team will be selling Walmart and Target gift cards in the Gathering Space after all masses the weekend of **December 5th and 6th**.

Thank you in advance for your continued generosity with this project.

Each Ornament has a Gift Request for the Needy to be given to one of the following Charitable Agencies

YELLOW

Casa Catalina – Back of the Yards Neighborhood

GREEN ANGEL

PADS-Homeless Shelter in Marquette Park

RED

Catholic Charities

GREEN TREE

St. Vincent de Paul Society Families

WHITE

U. S. Veterans living in Hines Hospital

PINK

U. S. Veterans living in Manteno

BLUE

St. Vincent De Paul Society

Please shop for the gift requested on the ornament(s) you have taken. Securely tape the gift request ornament to the gift bag or gift box in which you have placed your purchase.

Please return all gifts to church the WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 12/13.



The faithful all around the world are invited to join with Pope Francis for his special intention. Won't you join in? The intention for the month of November is for Artificial Intelligence.

We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

Stewardship



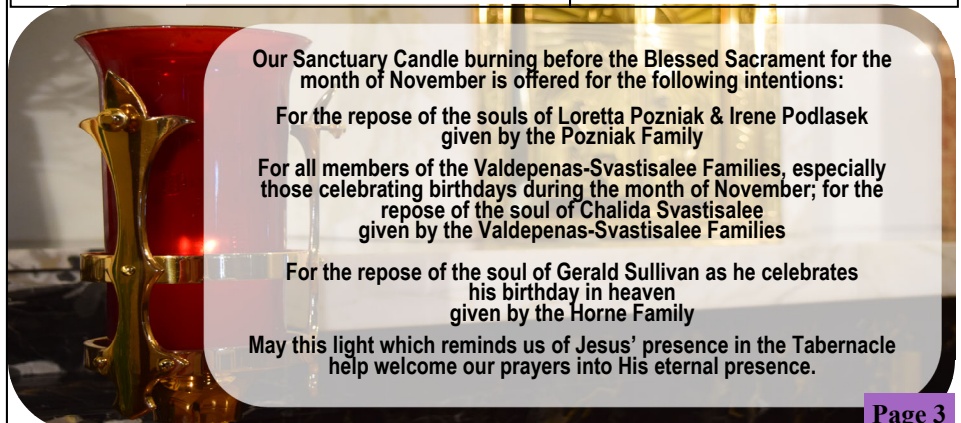
Due to an early deadline, the weekly contribution information for last weekend, November 22, 2020, will be printed in next weekend's bulletin.



Dates: October 19, 2020 to November 8, 2020

Transactions: 125

Amount: \$4,185.00



Our Sanctuary Candle burning before the Blessed Sacrament for the month of November is offered for the following intentions:

For the repose of the souls of Loretta Pozniak & Irene Podlasek given by the Pozniak Family

For all members of the Valdepenas-Svastisalee Families, especially those celebrating birthdays during the month of November; for the repose of the soul of Chalida Svastisalee given by the Valdepenas-Svastisalee Families

For the repose of the soul of Gerald Sullivan as he celebrates his birthday in heaven given by the Horne Family

May this light which reminds us of Jesus' presence in the Tabernacle help welcome our prayers into His eternal presence.



**Domine, labia mea aperies
(Lord, you will open my
lips) (Psalm 51:17)**

A guide for us as we enter this First Sunday of Advent, at prayer with the Church universal, and by extension, a guide to the entire liturgical season up to Christmas, is the Collect, the opening prayer for the Mass, which precedes the readings. The Collect for this First Sunday of Advent is as follows: "Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever."

Fr. Adrian Nocent remarked about the potency and direction of this prayer for us as we set out in preparation to celebrate God's Incarnation and birth in Jesus the Christ in a new year of grace: "[Foremost] in the Church's mind is the expectation of the last day and the judgment that it will bring. The faithful must advance courageously to meet the Lord; they are called to enter into the kingdom of heaven at the judgment." (*The Liturgical Year: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany*, p. 107)

The tenor of this Collect might sound strange, more in line with what we just heard and prayed in November with the language about the end of time and judgment. As she nears the end of Advent, the Church will look back to Jesus' First Coming, His Nativity, but at the beginning of this season, she looks forward to our Lord's Second Coming, His return in glory, and forms us by prayer so that we may worthily meet Him.

The Collect for the Latin Mass, the Extraordinary Form of the Mass, for this same Sunday exhorts us to a similar hopeful alertness: "Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance: Who livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost God, world without end." (Translation, *The Daily Missal and Liturgical Manual*, Baronius Press, Ltd. 2007)

Fr. C. C. Martindale exhorts us to appreciate what this prayer conveys as we begin Advent: "But it is much if we recognise that the Church puts audacious words upon our lips. ... We ask Him to 'come.' Is God ever absent? No! But we are, on our side. Absent-minded. 'Out of sight, out of mind.' ... Come, therefore, Lord, come again, into our world, into my life." (*The Prayers of the Missal: I. The Sunday Collects*, p. 13)

Fr. Matt Compton

St. Symphorosa & St. Rene's MILITARY GIFT BOXES

The Knights of Columbus are again sponsoring the popular Gift Box program for deployed soldiers. The collection boxes will be set up November 28th thru December 13th in the Church lobbies. Below is a suggested list - much can be picked up at dollar stores. We also gladly accept monetary donations for postage which can be dropped in the collection boxes - or church mailbox - in an envelope marked "Knights".

Thanks again for your support!

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| • Shampoo | • Magazines |
| • Body wash | • Crosswords |
| • Deodorant | • Jumbles |
| • Razors | • Puzzles |
| • Baby wipes | • Cards |
| • Eye drops | • Small card/dice games |
| • Toothpaste | • Gum |
| • Floss | • Nuts |
| • Lip balm | • Trail mix |
| • Sunblock | • Energy bars |
| • Toothbrushes | • Beef Jerky |
| • Cough drops | • Individual powdered drink mix (lemonade, ice tea, etc.) |
| • Icy Hot | |

St. Symphorosa & St. Rene Altar & Rosary Society News



The Altar & Rosary Society is very saddened to announce that the Annual Christmas Party has been **cancelled** due COVID-19 restrictions. At this time, we would also like to announce, that all future meetings are also cancelled until further notice. Our Altar and Rosary Society is keeping all of our members and their families in our prayers. We pray for our entire parishes health and safety as well as for a return to normalcy in all of our lives. We wish each and every member and their families a magical and joyful Christmas season.



Please take a moment to sit down, watch, and/or listen to Fr. Bob's "Embrace the Grace" meditations every week.

Fr. Bob and Steve Kittler, our parish Music Director, began this page as a way to keep in contact with the parish and all our parishioners during the COVID stay at home order. This seven to ten minute video shares the good news with all interested persons.

Please visit the parish website at [stsymphorosa.org](https://www.stsymphorosa.org)
or go directly to the YouTube page at
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJm6IOYVzFmLnENc-rj7jMQ> to view.



WELCOME FAMILIES TO ST. SYMPHOROSA AND ST. RENE PARISH FAITH FORMATION



Faith Formation Office

Phone: (773) 767-1523 x226

Email: msiebenaler@archchicago.org

Coordinator: Peg Siebenaler

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 12/8:** Faith Formation Classes (Tues.)
St. Rene Campus - 6pm
- 12/9:** Faith Formation Classes (Wed.)
St. Rene Campus - 6pm
- 12/10:** First Reconciliation
St. Rene Campus
- 12/12:** Faith Formation Classes (Sat.)
St. Sym's Campus
First Reconciliation
St. Sym's Campus
Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass
St. Rene Campus

Thank You

*for serving our country &
protecting our freedoms!*

We need your help with a Special Advent Outreach Project. Please participate by making Christmas cards for our Soldiers stationed overseas, and the Veterans at Hines Hospital in Maywood, thanking them for their sacrifices and service.

Join us in bringing some Christmas Joy to our Soldiers and Veterans this Christmas. PLEASE, if you have a few moments, help us in this endeavor. All cards can be turned -in at the main Parish Office. Thank you for your efforts in making this holiday a little Brighter for our American Soldiers.

Peg Siebenaler
Faith Formation Coordinator



The Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Level 2 Students in our Faith Formation Program, will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time on Thursday, December 10th and on Saturday, December 12th. Please remember these young students in your prayers as they journey closer to Jesus in the sacrament of Reconciliation.

In the true spirit of Advent and Christmas, the St. Symphorosa & St. Rene Faith Formation Program will be remembering the less fortunate. For our Advent Outreach Project this year we will be collecting store gift cards....to Walmart, Target, Walgreens, etc. All donations will be given to the "Together We Cope" organization. Their Santa's Workshop Program provides toys and pajamas to hundreds of South Side youngsters in need.

This year, with the Covid-19 pandemic disrupting everyday life for millions of people around the world, the need is expected to be greater than before. If you would like to contribute, please bring your donation to the main parish office in an envelope marked, "Faith Formation Advent Outreach", by December 12. Thanks so much for your cooperation with this project and for showing concern for those in need. Wishing you and your dear families a Blessed Advent Season.



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Santa's Virtual Open House

Sunday, December 6, 2020

12:30pm-2:30pm

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- Tour our school virtually!
- Meet our teachers, principals, and staff
 - Learn about financial aid
- Enter to win a holiday gift basket
 - Visit with Santa!



Call 773-585-6888 or email
rbanden@stsymphorosaschool.org to
receive the link to join!



Follow us on Facebook , Twitter, and Instagram!

(773) 585-6888

www.stsymphorosa.org

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, November 28, 2020

4:00pm *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Matt

5:30pm *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Norm

Sunday, November 29, 2020

7:30am *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

9:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

10:30am *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Matt

12:00pm *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Matt

Monday, November 30, 2020

8:00am *St. Rene Church*

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Thursday, December 3, 2020

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Friday, December 4, 2020

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Saturday, December 5, 2020

8:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

4:00pm *St. Rene Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

5:30pm *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: Fr. Bob

Sunday, December 6, 2020

7:30am *St. Rene Church*

Presider: TBA

9:00am *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: TBA

10:30am *St. Rene Church*

Presider: TBA

12:00pm *St. Symphorosa Church*

Presider: TBA

†Edward Gerlick (*Gerlick Family*)

†Jeffrey Gerlick (*Gerlick Family*)

†Thomas P. Mahon (*80th Birthday*)

†Lucille Salamendo (*Terri & Dan Domarsky*)

†Esteban Garcia (*Markham Family*)

†James Gaughan (*Sue Solcani*)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

†Helen Morrissey (*Barb Grzenia*)

†Encarnacion Villarreal (*Daughter & Grandsons*)

First Sunday of Advent

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

†Andy Budz, Jr. (*Barbara Rendak*)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

†Daniel Plewa (*Barbara Rendak*)

†Estelle Rabbitt (*St. Symphorosa Super Club*)

†Roberto Rodriguez (*Inez Rodriguez*)

†Dominic Capparelli (*Altar & Rosary Society*)

†Jack Orsi (*Family*)

†Raymond Sutkowski (*Sutkowski Family*)

†Elaine Hilliard (*Joanne Tishka*)

†Linda Pecoraro (*Cathy & Pat Carone*)

†Robert Rodriguez (*Family*)

Saint Andrew, Apostle

†Dominic Capparelli (*Altar & Rosary Society*)

†Steven Mazeika (*Markham Family*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

†Altar & Rosary Member (*Altar & Rosary Society*)

†Nancy Berg (*Capparelli Family*)

†Rosa Cicchino (*Rosa Rodriguez*)

†Kathy Arvetis (*Husband*)

†Laverne Kenney (*Kenney Family*)

Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

†Florence Comiso (*Mary Trendle*)

†Robert Neumann (*Mom*)

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Porcelli*)

†Ronald Kohudic (*Koetzle Family*)

†Joseph Ozik, Jr. (*Mary Shortall*)

The Sokowski, Oczkowski & Fox Families & Friends, Living & Deceased
(*Keith & Maryann Fox*)

†Edward Gerlick (*Gerlick Family*)

†Jeffrey Gerlick (*Gerlick Family*)

†Lorraine Gorniak (*Family*)

Health & all the Lord's blessings for Sharon Crowley (*Diana Schmidt*)

†Richard Crotty (*Cherie Berndt*)

†Esteban Garcia (*Marcelo Family*)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

Second Sunday of Advent

†Vince Porcelli (*Wife Judy*)

Health & all the Lord's blessings for Mike & Laura Smoter
& their growing family (*Mom, Anna Smoter*)

†Nick Bouzios (*Janina*)

†Ted Hermanowicz - 38th Anniversary of Passing (*George & Nancy Groszek*)

†Janet & Steve Molnar (*Hohm Family*)

†William Saunders, Jr. (*Mary Thorpe, Sister & Family*)

†Raymond Sutkowski (*Family*)

†Conception Volanti (*Donna Topps*)

†Charles Volanti (*Donna Topps*)

†Maryann Whitehead (*Donna Topps*)

†Dominic Capparelli (*John & Colleen McGuire*)

Weekend Presider subject to change without notice



There are in the end three things
that last: Faith, Hope, and Love,
and the greatest of these is

Martin Adelsbach
Judy Adelsbach
Larry Adkins
Guadalupe Almendarez
Kim Argires
JoAnn Baade
Ignatius Battiato
Carl Bell
Mary Bieser
Fr. Ted Bojczuk
Lydia Brown
Gina Camp
Pat Carmody
Judy Carranza
Dominic Ciampaglia
Margaret Ciampaglia
Michael Clifford
Marilyn Crites
Norma De Stefano
Chris Doherty
Randy Etapa
Juan Figueroa
Mitchell Gallas
Geri Gestaut
Carol Gress
Suzann Gunter
Kathy Haars
Catherine Hier
Megan High
Robert Hilbruner
Heather Hradek
Larry Holmes
Deacon Tom Hyde
Denise M. Jandura
Rich S. Jandura
Joan Juris
Pete Kats
Lee Karpinski
Dennis Kline
Walter Kokoszka, Sr.
Claudia Kwilosz
Norman Kwilosz
James Lapsansky
Maryann Larson

Donna Lauritzen
Domenico Lepore
Rose Ann Lindsay
Debbie Lipien
Maria & Martinez Family
John Martini
Marge Masunas
Lori McCarthy
Thomas Minnich
Christine Mosqueda
Genevieve Nagle
William Nita
Carol Oles
Florence Panzarella
Eleanor Pastorek
Baby Alexander J Pentz
Gi Gi Piccolini
Rachelle Piegari
Marie Pratt
Ann Robertson
Edward Robertson
Fr. John Rudnik
Joseph Rudnik
Coltyn Schmidt
Kristyn Schmidt
Marge Schmidt
Judith Siwek
Elliana Sterk
Brian Styka
Sr. Christine Styka
Terry Styka
Melinda Svasistalee
Michael Tallon
Sandra Tallon
Mary Thorpe
Scott Tloczek
Shirley Tloczek
George Trendle
Judith Webber
Joan Wilhelmy
Richard Zaleski
Barb Ziegler
Michelle

Due to privacy laws, names may only be added to our prayer list by immediate family. Please let us know when to remove a name.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Sgt. Jaime A. Acosta, USMC
Sgt. Ted Bartelmey
CS-1 Joel Battung
1st Sgt. Chas. Berglund, USMC
Sgt. Navveen Babbu, USMC
Sgt. Arthur A. Boruch, National Guard
Hospitalman Blythe A. Cisneros, USN
Airman Carlos Cisneros, USAF
Sgt. Frank Cisneros, USMC
Corpsman Nicholas J. Cundari, USN
Captain Kevin Dobbyn, US Army
Sgt. John Flores, IL National Guard
Staff Sgt. Andrew Gaca, USAF
Sgt. Michael Hough, US Army

Anthony Johaniewicz, US Navy
Corporal Noah M. Konie, USMC
Lance Corp. Tim Lisenko, USMC
Trevor Lutz, US Army
Corporal Zachary Maderak, USMC
Private Joseph M. Mikutis, USMC
Pvt1st Class Daniel Morales, US Army
SPC Alex Ramos
Staff Sgt. Abel Sandoval, USMC
WO-1 Richard Sobeske, US Army
Sgt. 1st Class Kristina Stuhlmacher
LCpl. Justin R. Thorpe, USMC
1LT Zachary White, IL Army NG

Let us pray...

Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let
perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls
of the faithful departed, through the mercy of
God, rest in peace. Amen.

Rodolfo Asencio



Flood Brothers

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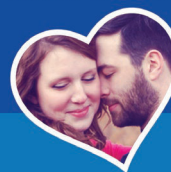
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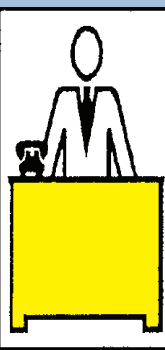


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